

Message Text

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ACTION NSF-02

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DEPT PASS NSF/INT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, OSCI, TPHI, RO
SUBJECT: NSF/NCST COOPERATIVE SCIENCE PROGRAM

1. DURING RECENT MEETING TO REVIEW PROGRESS OF RESEARCH PROJECT "TRANSFORMATION OF CAROTENOIDS" WITH U.S. AND ROMANIAN INVESTIGATORS, NCST'S MATACHE RAISED ISSUE OF FUTURE OF NSF/NCST COOPERATIVE PROGRAM WITH SCIATT. HE SAID HE HAD JUST RECEIVED WORD FROM WASHINGTON THAT A NEW APPROACH BY AN EMBASSY OFFICER TO NSF ON THIS SUBJECT HAD NOT ELICITED A DEFINITIVE RESPONSE FROM NSF ABOUT THE QUESTIONS OF CONTINUED COOPERATION. MATACHE SAID THE NCST WAS AT A LOSS TO KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT. UNLIKE MANY OF THE S&T AGREEMENTS WHICH THE GOR HAS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, THE GOR VALUES ITS S&T RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. FOR ITS SCIENCE AND DOES NOT WISH TO SEE IT END. MATACHE POINTED OUT THAT THE NCST RECOGNIZES THAT ALL HAS NOT GONE WELL IN THE PAST, HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN IMPROVEMENT IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF PROJECTS ON THE ROMANIAN SIDE IN RECENT MONTHS. HE CITED REESE/NICOARA AND MELNICK/BILBIE PROJECTS AS EXAMPLES. ON THE BASIS OF THIS KIND OF PROGRESS, MATACHE SAID HE HOPED NSF WOULD RECONSIDER ITS MORATORIUM ON NEW RESEARCH

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PROJECTS, FOR OTHERWISE US/ROMANIAN S&T COOPERATION IS DEAD IN THE WATER.

2. MATACHE REAFFIRMED THAT NCST ACCEPTS WORKSHOP PROPOSAL AS A PRINCIPAL MODALITY FOR COOPERATION WITH NSF IN THE FUTURE, BUT SAID THE NCST COULD NOT ACCEPT WORKSHOPS AS THE ONLY SOURCE OF NEW PROJECTS BECAUSE IT

WAS NEITHER FEASIBLE NOR USEFUL IN EVERY CASE. HE CITED THE SIMPSON/BODEA PROJECT AS AN EXAMPLE. THIS PROJECT WHICH HAS PRODUCED EXCELLENT SCIENCE AND PUBLICATIONS IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE. MUCH OF THE THEORETICAL WORK HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND IF A NEW PROJECT WERE APPROVED, AS THE U.S. AND ROMANIAN RESEARCHERS DESIRE, THEY COULD CONCENTRATE ON PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF THE RESEARCH WITH BENEFITS FOR BOTH SIDES. UNDER THE MORATORIUM THIS VALUABLE SCIENTIFIC WORK WILL NOW BE INTERRUPTED IN MID-STREAM. ACCORDING TO MATACHE A WORKSHOP WOULD BE OF DOUBTFUL UTILITY IN THIS CASE. HE SAID, THE NCST WAS PREPARED TO APPROVE A NEW SIMPSON/BOEA PROJECT ON THE BASIS THAT THE SCIENTIFIC WORK ACCOMPLISHED THUS FAR SHOULD NOT BE LOST. (NOTE: EMBASSY ALSO EVALUATES SIMPSON/BODEA PROJECT AS EXCELLENT. COOPERATION BETWEEN PARTNERS HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY TROUBLE FREE, SCIENTIFIC RESULTS GOOD AND THERE HAVE BEEN REGULAR VISITS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS. IF MORATORIUM DID NOT EXIST OR EXCEPTION COULD BE MADE, EMBASSY WOULD UNHESITATINGLY RECOMMEND THAT NEW SIMPSON/BODEA PROJECT BE APPROVED BY NSF. PROFESSOR SIMPSON, U.S. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR, VERIFIED TO SCIATT THAT WORKSHOP NOT NECESSARY AT THIS POINT IN THE COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP.)

3. MATACHE ALSO INFORMED SCIATT THAT NCST AGREED THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO IMPROVE ADMINISTRATION OF CURRENT PROJECTS IN ORDER TO BRING THEM TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSIONS AND THAT IN FUTURE, OVERALL NUMBER OF PROJECTS SHOULD BE HELD TO MORE MANAGEABLE PROPORTION.

4. IN CLOSING MATACHE STATED THAT DR. BRAINARD HAD INFORMED HIM DURING MAY REVIEW MEETING THAT NCST WOULD RECEIVE STATEMENT OF NSF'S OFFICIAL POSITION ON RENEWAL OF MOU IN JUNE AND, IF DECISION TO RENEW WAS POSITIVE, A PROPOSED TEXT OF NEW MOU. HE NOTED THAT JUNE HAD PASSED BUT A SPECIFIC AND CLEAR STATEMENT OF THE NSF POSITION HAD NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING. HE ASKED SCIATT TO ASCERTAIN IF NSF WOULD FULFILL THIS COMMITMENT SINCE TIME FOR RENEWAL WAS RAPIDLY APPROACHING. SCIATT AGREED TO CONVEY THIS MESSAGE TO NSF AND ALSO SUGGESTED THAT NCST COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH NSF ABOUT THE PROGRAM.

5. AS NSF AWARE, NEGOTIATIONS WILL BEGIN SOON WITH GOR ON NEW PROGRAM OF COOPERATION AND EXCHANGES. PREPARATIONS FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE WELL ADVANCED ON BOTH SIDES AND IT ANTICIPATED THAT DRAFTS WILL

BE EXCHANGED ON OR ABOUT SEPTEMBER 15. NSF/NCST
MOU IS OF COURSE KEY ELEMENT IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,
AND HEALTH SECTION OF THIS DOCUMENT AND IT OUR
UNDERSTANDING THAT USICA WILL SOON BE IN TOUCH WITH
NSF TO DETERMINE NSF INTENTIONS VIS-A-VIS CONTINUED
INCLUSION IN DOCUMENT AND/OR CHANGES THAT MAY BE
DESIRED.
AGGREY

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